



The Herald

St. Raphael the Archangel Episcopal Church

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From Our Rector



Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

prayer found in three words: 'Help, Thanks, Wow'. But the Bible has another form of prayer when we find news so hard: lament. Perhaps we need to recover the practice of lament!

Remember how I renamed the parable of the Prodigal Son as the parable of Misunderstood Grace recently in Lent? Just finding new words can work on our anxious hearts by re-wording our feelings and thoughts in the form of lament as seen in Psalms. A lament has four parts: addressing God; an honest complaint; a request for change; and an expression of trust. Look at the example of Psalm 13, and perhaps write your own lament:

Psalm 13

¹ How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

= ADDRESS

² How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

= COMPLAINT

³ Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

= REQUEST

⁵ But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.

= TRUST

Contemplating and writing the honest words of your heart in the form of lament might just turn your words into a prayer of hope, understanding and peace.

Be blessed!

--Rev Helen



Rev. Canon Dr.
Helen Van
Koeveering

Senior Warden's Corner

Stepping Up to Serve: Seeing the Needs Others Might Miss

In every church, there are tasks that are visible—teaching a class, reading the lesson, singing in the choir, or sometimes in preaching the sermon. But behind the scenes, there are countless ways the Body of Christ functions through quiet, faithful service. These acts may go unnoticed by many, but they are deeply needed.

This season, I am inviting you to take a fresh look at how you can serve. There are ministries and roles at St. Raphael that need willing hands and humble hearts. From setting up chairs, preparing meals, or helping with children's ministry, to offering rides, making calls, or simply checking in on a fellow member—every act of service helps the church to flourish.

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12 that every part of the body is important. Some members may feel unseen, but their contribution is essential. In the same way, some needs within our parish may not be obvious, but they are real and pressing.

I encourage you to pray and ask God to open your eyes to the quiet needs around you. Step into the spaces where help is needed. Don't wait for a formal invitation—your willingness to show up and serve speaks volumes.

I pray that we know that we are a church where everyone has a place, and every role is honored. When we all do our part, no matter how big or small, we build something truly beautiful together—one act of service at a time.



*Janis Rosebrook
Sr. Warden*

A Musical Note



*Dr. Vicki Bell
Organist & Choir*

Our St. Raphael choir has been hard at work as we prepare choral anthems for Lent and the impending Easter season. Our aim is to offer hymns and anthem texts that parallel the liturgical season and the suggested readings per Sunday.

Singers love to explore anthem texts as we pursue both earthly and spiritual connections. The anthem for April 6 was an interesting example of this correlation; the choir sang a setting of a penitential text written by 17th-century Anglican cleric John Donne, titled "A Hymn to God the Father."

(<https://www.poetryoutloud.org/poem/a-hymn-to-god-the-father/>) Each stanza of the poem ends with a plea for forgiveness, followed by "When thou hast done, thou

hast not done, for I have more." Notably, Donne used word play in this text, for his surname was pronounced "done."

We would love to incorporate new members into our choir, especially as we approach the season of Easter, where the texts and musical settings have a special depth of emotion and significance. Reading music, while helpful, is not essential to your participation. If you would like to attend a rehearsal before making a commitment, please send me an email (vicki.bell@asbury.edu) or contact a chorister friend for further information. All are welcome to share their musical gifts with our choir and congregation!

Children's Ministry

Godly Play -The Mystery of Easter

We are continuing "The Faces of Easter" lessons, which focus on Jesus as we revisit his life and journey through Holy Week - Passover, Crucifixion & Resurrection. These lessons deepen the core lesson as they are retold for emphasis and consistency. They are organized to follow the liturgical year, bringing Jesus' presence more into focus.

In Eastertide, we'll follow the disciples as they work through the loss of their master & what the empty tomb means to them. In addition, we'll also add lessons on Christian crosses & symbols of the Holy Eucharist. Children of all ages are invited to join us.



Dinner Church Recap

Our speaker for Dinner Church on April 5 was Mizari Suarez of Neighbors Immigration Clinic. Coordinator Mizari plus one full-time immigration attorney serve the entire state of Kentucky. They specialize in helping undocumented juveniles, a niche that other immigration non-profits working in the state don't serve.

Immigration has been a difficult issue in the US for decades, Mizari said. Immigration issues are complicated, in no small part because many US businesses take advantage of low-cost labor that the undocumented provide in sectors such as the equine industry, construction, restaurants, landscaping, and janitorial and housekeeping services. These workers have no recourse if their employer chooses not to pay them the agreed-upon rate. The employer may have filed the required paperwork for them using another SSN and taken taxes out of their wages for benefits they will never receive.

Mizari gave us an update on ICE efforts in Kentucky, which is under the jurisdiction of the Chicago region. Fourteen agents are currently assigned to Kentucky, with 12 working primarily in Louisville. Their priority is to deport the undocumented who have criminal records, though expedited removal is sought for those with less than two years spent in the US and those who have not yet started the asylum process. There is currently a local case of a 3-month-old removed from the home of a mixed-status family by ICE agents.

What can we do to help immigrants and refugees in our neighborhood? The Neighbors Immigration Clinic offers red cards in many different languages and dialects explaining the rights of the undocumented and refugees. Mizari said she would drop some of these off at church. We can help distribute these to those who might find them useful. Immigrants who have lived in the US more than two years should carry proof of that, which can consist of school registration papers for their children, utility bills, even dated Amazon receipts showing their name and address. If you are so inclined, the Neighbors Immigration Clinic would be grateful for monetary donations, which are used for salaries, office expenses, travel expenses, and printed materials publicizing their services.

A View from the Pew

Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter

A very long time ago in Florida, I went to an Easter Sunrise Service. I was cold and sleepy and not at all in a worshipful mood. I never went to another one. Yet some people and priests like sunrise services. This shows that our experience is personal. Here is my experience.

Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, is the only church service that has a sudden, profound mood change halfway through. It begins joyfully, with procession forming outside and coming into the church singing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor to Thee Redeemer King." We're given little palm crosses to wear and palm fronds to wave. But then comes the reading of the Passion Gospel, from the Last Supper to the Crucifixion, this year Luke 22:14-23:56. Various readers and the priest take parts. When Pilate asks what the crowd wants to do with Jesus, we, the crowd, are supposed to shout, "Crucify him." I really dislike doing that. I might even not do it. Once two of us asked a priest if we could leave that part out. He said no.

St. Raphael's will begin Holy Week with noon Eucharistic services Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Maundy Thursday will be an evening service commemorating the Last Supper with Eucharist, footwashing, and stripping the altar. This is the only time in the year we have footwashing. The priest and perhaps helpers will wash one foot of any participants. You aren't required to participate, but if you plan to, wear shoes and socks that can easily be taken off. Some of us find this to be a very moving experience.



Altar stripping ends the service. Its purpose is to leave the altar area bare for Good Friday, the only day when there is no Eucharist. The Altar Guild and servers move everything into the sacristy. Most significantly, any consecrated bread and wine and the candle by the aumry are removed. To me, the sight of the bare altar is powerful.

Diane Whorley, Terri Phelps, and Barbara Connell receive a Birthday Blessing each year. You may well ask why "Good." The noon service will be the Prayer Book liturgy, again the Passion Gospel reading, and ending with the veneration of the cross.

On Saturday evening, Easter Vigil is the first service of Easter. In ancient calendars, the new day begins at sunset. The Vigil is a beautiful service with scriptures, songs, and Eucharist. The church is full of flowers. "New Fire" is lighted, and sometimes, though not this year, there will be a Baptism. I no longer go to the service. I found that it tired me so much that I had nothing left for Easter morning. I encourage anyone with more stamina to go.

And then Easter Morning. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

--Rose Canon

Another View from the Pew

Jonathon Melton and I enjoy a good intellectual argument, and we find them anywhere we can. Scripture is a place we frequently engage as we came to the Episcopal Church with different backgrounds. Even when I disagree with him, I really respect his views in part because he's done EFM (Education for Ministry), but also because he's extremely widely read and a very deep thinker (I shouldn't admit this, as I know it will go to his head).

There is one place we seriously disagree. I really hate the book of Job. OK, hate is strong, but I think I do. Jonathon has a much different view of it. I won't try to put words in his mouth, but we have recently been exchanging texts about it (again) and part of that exchange became reflections on the life and death of Jesus and its meaning.

Fundamentally, we both agree that Jesus' death is an important – maybe the important – sign that God loves us and wants to be in a relationship with us. Jesus life on earth was God engaging with us where we are. Coming to us, to be with us, to engage with us, to meet us more than part way. To literally meet us All. The. Way. Even unto death.

God so loved us, that he sent Jesus to walk among us. To suffer our lives and death with us and ultimately to show us love and give us hope.

While Jonathon and I still have disagreements even about what that means, we both find deep comfort in the knowledge of God's love. Holy week frequently reminds me of the path that Jesus walked. I strive to greet the world in love as Jesus called me to do. All of you at St. Raphael's help me to walk that path. Sometimes by challenging me, and sometimes by leading me, and sometimes by carrying me forward (or pushing LOL). But you all are there, part of the Body of Christ for me. And for that, I thank all of you. Perhaps today, especially Jonathon.

--Chris Bollinger

Can you share your talents this summer?

It's Child's Play!

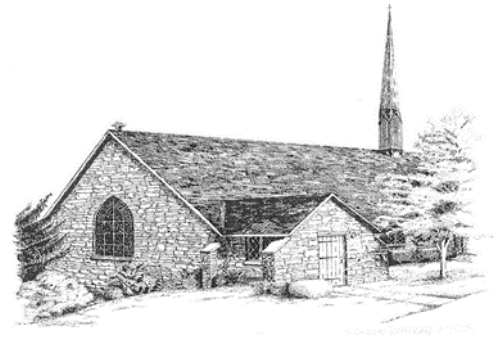
The Godly Play team are going to take a break for the summer. We are looking for helpers to provide some enrichment activities for children on Sunday mornings during June and July. If you play a musical instrument, paint, draw, work with tools, cook, etc. and you are interested in sharing your knowledge and talents with children, contact Amanda Whorley at Amanda.Worley@bhsi.com. Please note that the Episcopal Church requires those who work with children to complete Safeguarding training, which is no cost but does take some time.

Get Dirty at St. Raphael's!

St. Raphael's landscaping and gardens are lovely! But they can't stay that way without help. Interested gardeners who would like to get some sun and fresh air and help maintain the grounds in small patches please contact Alison Clendenen at alisonclendenen@gmail.com.

Join us for Holy Week and Easter Services!

April 13	Palm Sunday	8:30 am (<i>spoken</i>) and 11:00 am (<i>with music</i>)	
		<i>(Services start in Tobit's Trace.)</i>	
April 14	Monday in Holy Week	Eucharist (<i>spoken</i>)	Noon
April 15	Tuesday in Holy Week	Eucharist (<i>spoken</i>)	Noon
April 16	Wednesday in Holy Week	Eucharist (<i>spoken</i>)	Noon
April 17	Maundy Thursday Service	Eucharist (<i>with music</i>)	6:30 pm
April 18	Good Friday	Stations of the Cross	Noon
		Good Friday liturgy (<i>spoken</i>)	6:30 pm
April 19	Easter Eve	Easter Vigil Service (<i>with music, baptisms</i>)	6:30 pm
April 20	Easter	Easter Brunch Potluck	9:30 am (<i>Bring a dish to share!</i>)
		Eucharist (<i>with music</i>)	11 am



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